



Center Stage THEATER

Theodore J. Sennes
presents

Hopeless Romantic

**A New Play by
Steven Kunes**

Starring
Edward Giron & Meredith McMinn

Staged Reading

Saturday August 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.



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This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of Jane and Michael Wilson, Amanda and Jim McIntyre, SBMA Photo-Futures, Eric Skipsey, Korea Foundation (Seoul), and Korean Cultural Center (Los Angeles).

Sungsoo Koo, *Seo Tour Bus* (detail), 2005. Chromogenic photograph. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase with funds provided by the S.I. Morris Photography Endowment.

Cast

Michael Hanley Edward Giron
Beth Summerland Meredith McMinn*

Place

Small waiting area of the Santa Barbara Airport.

Time

The present.

**“Hopeless Romantic” is dedicated to Nathaniel Kunes
and his beautiful bride Natalie - may they live happily
ever after!**

**And special thanks to Claire Cockrell’s daughter,
Jill, who has once again proven that life does indeed
imitate art.**

*** Appears courtesy of Actors Equity Association**



SANTA BARBARA REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

***Proudly Congratulates
Center Stage Theater
On Their 20th Anniversary!***

Special thanks to Theodore J. Sennes for bringing Steven Kunes'
"Hopeless Romantic" to the Santa Barbara community



Center Stage THEATER

History

Center Stage Theater opened on August 17, 1990 with an Access Theater production of *The Boys Next Door* directed by Rod Lathim and starring Santa Barbara native Anthony Edwards. The theater came into existence thanks to an innovative arts-business-government collaboration and has grown and developed over the past 20 years to become one of the gems of the Santa Barbara arts community. Through the years productions have ranged from local children performing *The Nutcracker* to professional European performers making their US debut. Each year we are proud to welcome a group of renters that includes organizations that have made Center Stage their home for years and new groups that arrive on the scene each year. We are also pleased to serve the full spectrum of community events including dance, music, theater, lectures, meetings and films with a breadth of types of performances from young dancers and actors appearing on stage for the first time to seasoned professionals.

In the last year the theater housed 37 different productions by local groups, including long-time renters such as **Lit Moon**, **Speaking of Stories** and **City@Peace**, as well as providing a venue for new renters like **Out of the Box Theater Company** and **Happy Destiny Productions**. The theater is booked throughout the year by a variety of different groups that serve a broad spectrum of the Santa Barbara community. **City@Peace** uses the theater to help at-risk youth, while **Lit Moon** brings innovative work from throughout Europe to Santa Barbara. 88% of our audience is from the Santa Barbara area. 38% of the audience is under 25. In the last year 90% of the productions were by Santa Barbara groups and more than 35% involved local youth.

When you support Center Stage you are supporting all of the community and arts organizations that rent during the year, including **City@Peace**, **Lit Moon**, **Genesis West**, **Santa Barbara Dance Alliance**, **Fusion Dance**, **Speaking of Stories** and so many more. To keep our rates as affordable and accessible as possible we rely on the generous support of the community through grants, donations and special events like this one. We are deeply grateful to Steven Kunes, Theodore J. Sennes and everyone involved with *Hopeless Romantic* for their generous support of the theater.

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EDWARD GIRON (Michael Hanley)

Edward Giron has been a staple in the Santa Barbara theater community for many years. He was last seen as Richard Nixon in the Center Stage production of *Frost/Nixon*. Prior to that, Ed portrayed Captain Georges Ladoux in *Mata Hari*, Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind* and Andy in *Love Letters* at Center Stage. Directing and acting credits include *Ives Lives*, *The Persians* and *Spoon River*

Anthology. He has been seen at many local venues including Victoria Hall, Circle Bar B and the Lobero. Memorable performances include the title role in *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, Jackson Pollack in *Fifteen Rounds with Jackson Pollack*, Martin Heidegger in *Hannah and Martin*, Sidney in *Deathtrap*, Juror #3 in *Twelve Angry Men* and multiple roles in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. Known as the “voice” of Montecito Bank & Trust, Ed also does voiceover work and hosts radio’s “Community Matters” on KZSB 1290.



MEREDITH McMINN (Beth Summerland)

Meredith McMinn has been a professional actress, director and teacher for more than 25 years. She has been involved in a number of productions at Center Stage, first in the title role in *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Bernarda, not the house); as Celia in *They Say She Is Veiled*, which she also directed; in the dual role of Alice/Mrs. Plant in *Blue Heart* for Genesis West; and last fall, in an emergency, she stepped

into *Love Letters* opposite Ed Giron. She also directed *Resurrection Salon* (one of the *She Plays for Dramatic Women*) and was dialect coach for *Lieutenant of Inishmore*. She previously played opposite Ed as Hannah in *Hannah and Martin* and Varina Davis in *The Chameleon* at Victoria Hall Theatre and directed him in several roles in the *Theatrical Treats* series. Local audiences have also seen her over the years in such roles as Regan in *King Lear*, Hesione Hushabye in *Heartbreak House*, Old Queen Margaret in *Richard III*, and Aunt Dan in *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (all for TAG-Theatre Artists Group), Kate in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Indy Award) and Josefina in *Ambition Facing West* (both at the Garvin). Some favorites elsewhere include the title role in *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Globe Playhouse in L.A., Claire Zachanassian in *The Visit*, Grandma in *American Dream* and Kitty in *Taking Steps* at Houston’s Alley Theatre; Florence Harding in *Return to Normalcy* at PCPA; Paulina in *The Winter’s Tale* and Maria in *Twelfth Night* for Shakespeare in the Park, Louisville; Aldonza (Dulcinea) in *Man of La Mancha* at La Mirada Civic Theatre; Juliet’s Nurse for GET and Beth in *Otherwise Engaged* at San Diego’s Old Globe; and the dual role of Paulina/Josephina in *I Married Wyatt Earp*, this last one for the Los Angeles Festival of New American Musicals, co-produced by ASCAP. She’s looking forward to returning to Center Stage in November, again with Genesis West, in *Curse of the Starving Class*.



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THEODORE J. SENNES (Producer)

Theodore J. Sennes was born in 1951 in Los Angeles, California, but spent much of his youth in Las Vegas. He was bitten by the theater bug quite early because his father, the late Frank Sennes, created and produced *Moulin Rouge*, the longest-running and most successful show in history, selling out every performance for 22 years. In 1970 it was estimated that 50 million people had seen Sennes' lavish production shows, which he and his brothers spent more than \$100 million staging. As a boy, Ted would work behind-the-scenes in almost every capacity — helping with wardrobe (some costumes cost as much as \$10,000), building sets, hauling lights, and greeting his father's friends which included every star at the time, politicians, Nobel laureates, U.S. Presidents and members of the Royal family. Early on, Frank Sennes was so pleased with his son's enthusiasm and work ethic that for Ted's 10th birthday he brought in some friends to entertain Ted and his school-mates: The Three Stooges! "Was I spoiled or what?" says Ted. In later years, Ted co-produced such mega hits as *A Chorus Line*, *Cats*, *Sly Fox*, *Deathtrap*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Master Class*, and has been a supporter of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for the past two decades. Ted is a firm believer in the value of community-based theater and we could not be more pleased to have his encouragement and support for this production of *HOPELESS ROMANTIC*.



SAM STERN (Co-Producer)

Sam Stern has worn many hats throughout his career. After serving in the Army as an Infantry Medic in Southeast Asia, Sam attended the University of Colorado and the University of San Francisco where he majored in Finance and Marketing. With this knowledge in hand, along with a lot of common sense, Sam went into the banking industry where he ultimately served on the Board of Directors of

Nevada First Thrift before launching his own firm, Stern Financial Group, mostly dealing with high-end commercial real estate acquisitions. Most recently, Sam has entered the art world when, during one of his many trips to Maui, he discovered a little-known artist named Davo. Sam is now the exclusive representative of DavoArt which is sold on Maui, in New York, Beverly Hills, Santa Barbara, London, Mumbai and Tokyo. When he was told about *HOPELESS ROMANTIC*, Sam replied, "I have to be involved with this show, it's the story of my life!"

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STEVEN KUNES (Playwright)

Steven Kunes was born in 1956 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and received a B.A. in Creative Writing and Comparative Literature from New York University in 1978. That same year, his short stories began appearing in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and the revamped *Saturday Evening Post*. Mr. Kunes won the William Faulkner Award for Short Fiction and the O. Henry Short Story Award, becoming one of only seven American authors to have received both prizes.

In 1983, TV pioneer Norman Lear hired Kunes to develop and write half-hour comedies, and for the next several years he enjoyed success on such sitcoms as “a.k.a. Pablo,” “Cosby,” “Family Ties,” “Cheers,” “Kate & Allie” and “The Wonder Years.” Kunes also wrote for one-hour dramas such as “Moonlighting,” “Our House,” “St. Elsewhere,” “thirtysomething” and “Deadwood.”

Kunes has received many awards over the years. Among his favorites are the William E. Kelley Award: Hollywood’s Top Ten Unproduced Screenplays (for his original screenplay “Acquitted”), the Valley International Film Festival’s Vision Award for Writing (“Rain Man”), the Emmy Award (“The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson”), Writers Guild Award and Humanitas Prize (“St. Elsewhere”), PTA’s Legacy Award (“The Wonder Years”) and the Laura Pels Impact Award, given by the National Stuttering Foundation for his volunteer work with children who are linguistically challenged.

Kunes also created “Everybody’s In The Book” -- the highly acclaimed kids’ writing program at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles, and MyGlobalClassroom -- a non-profit, K-12 distance learning center whose curriculum and enrichment programs are provided free of charge, via satellite broadband, to underprivileged schools around the world.

Kunes is currently adapting Garth Stein’s bestselling novel “The Art of Racing in the Rain” for producer Harvey Weinstein.

“HOPELESS ROMANTIC” is his first play.



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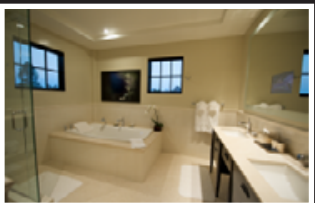
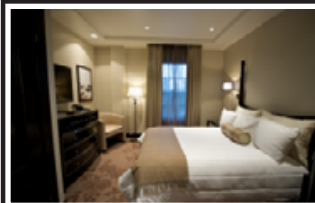
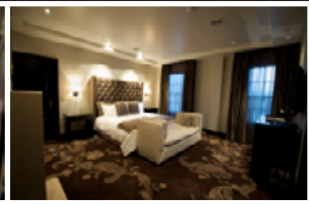


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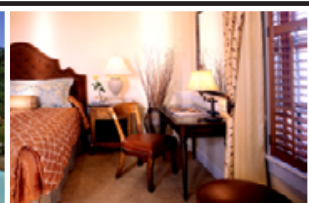
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